

Counselor's Corner

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Pilot Point High School, Pilot Point, Texas
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Welcome back!

The Counselor's Corner is back to help keep parents aware of important information and happenings at Pilot Point High School on a periodic basis. This is the first of the series that you will receive during this school year.

Schedule Information

It appears that we have survived the start of another school year. Since we have completed a full six weeks of school, there will be no additional schedule changes. If your child is experiencing difficulty in a class, please encourage him/her to seek help during tutorial time from 3:10-3:35 daily or before school. I would also suggest that you contact the teacher to see how you as a parent can help your child. You may contact the teacher by calling 940-686-2189 and leaving a message on their voice mail or by sending an e-mail.

Attendance Counts

Parents: Want a surefire way to help your teen be successful in school this school year? Encourage your student to attend school. Kids who go to class regularly are more likely to graduate. Try these tips:

- Show how learning relates to real life. If your teen thinks a skill is useful, he/she is more likely to learn it. *Example:* Planning a vacation draws on research skills.
- Tell your child not to skip a class just because he/she is struggling; help arrange for tutoring or other help.
- Know our attendance policy. When a student is absent, the parent is requested to notify the school by 9:00 a.m. (940-686-2189, ext 221). When the student returns to school, a note, signed by a parent or doctor/dentist, that describes the reason for the absence is required (the note must be presented within 3 school days). To receive credit in a class, a student must be enrolled and attend 90% of the days the class is offered; all too often, students lose class credit because of poor attendance.

Exit Level TAKS Retest

Any senior who has previously taken but not mastered all 4 sections of the Exit Level TAKS test (or any new senior who has moved to Texas) will be tested this month. The test dates are: English Language Arts on Tuesday, October 23; Mathematics on Wednesday, October 24; Science on Thursday, October 25, and Social Studies on Friday, October 26.

TAKS Tests

The Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) tests will be given this spring to all students in grades 9, 10, and 11. To be eligible to receive a Texas high school diploma, students must pass the Exit level TAKS tests given during the junior year in English Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies.

Please check the testing calendar on the high school's website and mark your calendar so that your child will be in attendance on the days of the TAKS tests.

Jostens to deliver Class Rings

Jostens will be on campus on Friday, December 7, 2007, from 8:45-9:15 a.m., to deliver class rings to Juniors. The balance due must be paid when the ring is picked up. You will receive a postcard reminding you of the date and listing the balance due; if you have questions about the balance due, please call the Jostens Student Center at 382-8948. If you have other questions, please contact the high school office.

For Your Information:

*If your student would like to receive information from a specific college, university, technical school, or military branch, please have them stop by the College and Career Center in room 100; we have some information on hand and if we don't have what they need, it can be requested from the school and have it mailed to your home.

*For college-bound students, registration information is available for ACT, www.act.org, SAT, www.collegeboard.com, THEA, www.thea.nesinc.com, and the NCAA Clearinghouse, www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. Paper registration bulletins for ACT, SAT, and THEA are available in the high school office; NCAA registration must be completed online.

*If you have questions, call the high school office for more information.

College Entrance Exams

The tests primarily used for admission to college are the SAT and the ACT. The tests are used along with your high school record to evaluate your level of academic knowledge. Although some colleges consider your high school grades and class rank, this criteria is subjective, meaning that schools and teachers vary. The SAT and ACT, however, are standardized. Colleges can compare your scores with 2 million students using the same criteria. Paper registration bulletins may be picked up from the high school office, or you may register on the web at www.collegeboard.com (for SAT) or www.actstudent.org (for ACT).

Which test should you take? Some colleges prefer the SAT and others prefer the ACT; some accept either test. However, if you're thinking about attending a two-year college in Texas you may not need either, but will need the THEA (see below); technical schools may have their own entrance exam. Check the school's website for specifics about entrance testing. Plan ahead: the registration deadline is about a month before each test, so you must schedule your test taking in time to get results back for college admission and scholarship deadlines.

Texas Higher Education Assessment (THEA) Test

The THEA Test has been approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, under Senate Bill 286, Texas Education Code, Section 51.3062: Texas Success Initiative, for use by Texas institutions of higher education as an assessment instrument for entering students. The THEA Test provides the diagnostic data required by this legislation. You may register for the regularly-scheduled Saturday test dates for the THEA on the internet at www.thea.nesinc.com. The THEA Test must be taken before enrolling in any college-level coursework at a 2- or 4-year public Texas college or university. For information about THEA exemptions, you may contact the testing office at the college or university you plan to attend or check their website.

JUNIORS & SOPHOMORES—DUAL CREDIT: If you are interested in enrolling in dual-credit coursework (courses that count for high school and college credit) for the 2008-09 academic year, you must be exempt based on SAT or ACT or Exit-Level TAKS criteria OR present passing scores on the THEA test. **Exemption scores or THEA scores must be received by June 1, 2008!**

Dual credit enrollment may be limited, so course requests will be processed in the order in which they are received AND THEA requirements are met. So, if you are interested in dual credit for next school year and need to take the THEA, you need to sign up soon!

Information about Preview Days, Opportunities, and Scholarships available for Grades 9-12

Please carefully review the listings in each mailing, as they will not be duplicated in future mailings! Only new information will be sent in subsequent mailings. All *Counselor's Corner* newsletters are posted on the high school website, <http://pphis.pilotpointisd.com>.

Website Spotlights:

Adventures in Education . A wealth of information is available on the internet, and Adventures in Education (AIE) is ready to help you accomplish your higher education goals. AIE has several resource links that can assist with homework help, exploring careers, planning for college, choosing your college, applying to college, paying for college, managing your money, and getting hired. Additionally, there is scholarship search information, and you can sign up for AIEmail. Check out the wealth of information at www.aie.org.

FastWeb . A FREE scholarship and college search engine that does the work for you. Log onto www.fastweb.com to find your personal scholarship and college matches. Also find internships, part-time jobs, advice, and more.

Texas Online Preparation for College Admissions Tests (TOPCAT) . TOPCAT provides **free** online SAT and ACT test preparation materials in English and Spanish to Texas middle and high school students, and adults preparing to enroll in college for the first time. TOPCAT is a joint project of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas Education Agency (TEA). TOPCAT allows free access to SAT and ACT test prep tutorials, practice sessions, timed sample tests, a vocabulary builder, and test-taking tips. The tutorials address each subject area and content category covered by SAT and ACT, and typically contain between 30 and 90 minutes of instructional materials each. Practice sessions provide individualized feedback for each incorrect and correct answer. The vocabulary builder contains over 1600 words, and like the practice sessions, adapt to each student's ability level. Students may access TOPCAT through the College for Texans website, <http://www.collegefortexans.com>.

Meeting a Military Recruiter?

Recruiter can't force a student to sign any document, promise a student they'll get the military job they want, promise where a student will be stationed, or waive any enlistment requirements. Joining the military is a big decision, and recruiters say it's not the best choice for everyone. Learn more about the lifestyle and career from the contacts below:

Air Force: The Air Force calls its recruiters advisers. At www.AirForce.com, you can do a quick search to find the nearest recruitment center. You can also chat online with an adviser or fill out a form to request more information. The website also answers questions about commitment, benefits, and life in the Air Force; or call 1-800-423-USAF (423-8723).

Army: The army's website, www.GoArmy.com, answers questions about service options, commitment, and benefits. It also has a live chat option through which you can ask recruiters questions. No computer? Call 1-800-USA ARMY (872-2769) and ask to speak with a recruiter in your area.

Coast Guard: The U.S. Coast Guard website, www.GoCoastGuard.com, has a local recruiter search and information about the Coast Guard's responsibilities. The site also answers questions about benefits and entry requirements. Call the Coast Guard at 1-800-438-USCG (438-8724).

Marines: The Marine Corps website, www.Marines.com, has a parent guide, information about life in the Corps and an interactive history of the Corps. Fill out an online form to request more information, or call 1-900-MARINES (627-4637).

Navy: Visit www.Navy.com to read more about the life in the Navy. The website has interactive quiz, the Life Accelerator, to help students focus their career interests. Students can also do a quick search to find local recruiting centers or do an online chat with a recruiter. Call the Navy at 1-800-USA-NAVY (872-6289).

Other websites include: www.afrotc.com . Air Force ROTC; www.arnj.army.mil . Army National Guard; www.nrotc.navy.mil . Naval ROTC; www.goang.com . Air National Guard; and www.armyrotc.com . Army ROTC.

Texas Financial Aid

The state of Texas has limited funds available for higher education for students who graduate on the Recommended or Distinguished Achievement programs. The TEXAS Grant program has a limited amount of money that is available to Texas residents with financial need and may be used toward expenses at either public or private colleges in Texas. The B-On-Time Student Loan Program provides a limited number of no-interest loans for eligible students to enable them to attend college in Texas. Additional information about these and other programs and opportunities may be found at <http://www.collegefortexans.com>.

Selective Service Registration

This is a reminder of the legal requirement that all young men MUST register with the Selective Service when they turn 18. The Selective Service registration is available online at www.sss.gov. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may register at any United States Post Office. Failure to register can make you ineligible for federal student grants or loans for college, job training benefits, and many state and federal jobs.

College Athletic Information

If you're considering an athletic scholarship as a means for paying for college, it is important to understand some basics of college athletics. There are three primary organizations that govern college athletics; each is different in eligibility, size, and scholarship regulations. You can better decide about which school you might attend if you understand a little more about each.

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) . has over 1,000 members schools that are classified according to size, competitiveness, and ability to award scholarships. The NCAA is further divided into three divisions: **Division I** includes schools that play on national television and have athletics departments with multi-million dollar budgets. Division I teams are subdivided into two divisions (Division I-A and I-AA) for football. Each division has certain stipulations regarding stadium size, required fan turn-out, and scheduling appropriate opponents. **Division II** are schools smaller in size and with slightly smaller scholarship allotments. These schools receive less media exposure. **Division III** schools have no more than a few thousand students, with a very limited recruiting budget; they do not offer athletics scholarships, but athletes may earn financial awards that offset the high tuition; the level of competition is not much lower than at Division II schools.

Prospective student-athletes planning to participate in intercollegiate athletics at an NCAA Division I or II institution should register with the NCAA Clearinghouse online at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. From the home page, the prospect should click on the prospective Student-Athletes, which will link the student-athlete to the necessary information. However, if the prospective student-athlete wishes to pay by check or money order, the student must complete and print out the form and mail with payment. It is extremely important that prospective student-athletes read the *NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete* carefully and understand the NCAA initial-eligibility requirements. Eligibility is determined by a combination of core-course requirements and test-score/grade-point average index; these are listed in the guide.

National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) . governs the athletic programs and contests of its 360 member colleges, all of which are small institutions. There is no limit on how many scholarships that NAIA schools may offer to its athletes; but small schools have limited budgets, which limits the number of scholarships available. The level of competition is about the same as NCAA Division III schools.

National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) . consists of over 500 junior (two-year) colleges. NJCAA schools offer full and partial scholarships in 23 sports. Athletes who are ineligible to attend NCAA Division I colleges often enroll in NJCAA schools for two years to become eligible, and then transfer to the NCAA school during their junior year. Often junior colleges have an open-door admissions policy (only a high school diploma or GED is required to enroll).

PREVIEW DAYS, OPPORTUNITIES, and SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR GRADES 9-12

Baylor University . Baylor Premiere

Fall Premiere . September 22, 2007
Winter Premiere . February 2, 2008
Spring Premiere . April 24-26, 2008
Register online at www.baylor.edu/admissions/visit

Baylor University . Six Em Days / Weekday Visits

October 8, 2007; November 19, 2007; February 18, 2008; March 19, 2008
Information/Registration available at www.baylor.edu/admissions, click on %Explore Baylor+, then %Visit Campus+, then %Six Em+.

DePauw University . Fall Preview Days

Monday, October 8, 2007; Monday, October 29, 2007; Saturday, November 3, 2007
To register, call 1-800-447-2495 or online at www.depauw.edu/admission/events/

Duke University . Discover Duke

Tuesday, October 23, 2007; 7:30 p.m.
Marriott Suites Dallas Market Center, 2493 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas

Eastern New Mexico University . ENMU Preview Day

Saturday, November 10, 2007; 8:45 a.m. . 2:15 p.m.
Register online at www.enmu.edu/previewday

Hardin-Simmons University . HSU Preview Days and Cowboy Fridays

Fall Preview . Saturday, November 3, 2007
Winter Preview . Saturday, February 23, 2008
Spring Round-Up . April 25-26, 2008
Cowboy Fridays . September 21, October 19, November 2, December 7, 2007;
January 25, February 22, March 28, May 9, June 6, July 11, August 8, 2008
Information at www.hsutx.edu/admissions

Savannah College of Art and Design . SCAD Days

Atlanta . November 3, 2007, February 2, 2008, March 1, 2008
Savannah . October 20, 2007, February 16, 2008, April 5, 2008
Tours, Admission Information, Portfolio Counseling, and Financial Aid, Scholarship/Fellowship Information
Register at www.scad.edu/visit

Tarleton State University . Texan Tour

Saturdays, November 10, 2007; March 1, 2008; begins at 8:00 a.m.
Register by phone at 1-800-687-4878 or online at www.tarleton.edu/~srec

Texas State University-San Marcos . Bobcat Days

Saturdays, October 13, 2007; November 10, 2007; February 16, 2008; April 19, 2008
Registration begins at 9:00 a.m.; no reservations required
Information available at www.admissions.txstate.edu and click on the visit campus tab, or call Undergraduate Admissions at 512-245-2364

Tufts University – University Information Session

Sunday, October 14, 2007; 2:00 p.m.
Marriott Dallas/Park Cities, 5954 Luther Lane, Dallas
RSVP to TuftsofTourRSVP@ase.tufts.edu, subject line: Dallas, body: name and number attending
Visit <http://admissions.tufts.edu> for more information

University of Arkansas – Ready Razorback 2007

Open house for future Razorbacks
Saturday, October 20, 2007
RSVP online at <http://visit.uark.edu/openhouse>, by e-mailing rsvp@uark.edu or calling 1-800-377-8632

University of Houston . Cougar Previews

Saturdays, November 10, 2007 and March 8, 2008
Register online at www.uh.edu/cougarpreview

University of Houston . Cougar Fridays

Information online at www.uh.edu/cougarfridays

University of New Mexico – Sneak Peak

Saturday, November 3, 2007; 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Hilton Arlington, 2401 East Lamar Blvd, Arlington
RSVP by Monday, October 29, 2007, by calling 1-800-CALL UNM, ext. 3

University of North Texas . UNT Night

Monday, October 15, 2007; Collin County Community College, Spring Creek Campus, 2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway, Plano
Tuesday, October 16, 2007; UNT Dallas Campus, 7300 Houston School Rd., Dallas
Wednesday, October 17, 2007; UNT Health Science Center at Fort Worth, 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd, Fort Worth
6:00 to 8:30 p.m., come and go; informative presentations at 6:30 and 7:30
For information call 940-565-2681 or 1-800-UNT-8211; parents welcome; se habla espanol; refreshments served.

University of North Colorado . Preview Days

Fridays . October 12, 26, November 16, 2007; January 25, February 8, March 14, April 25, 2008

Saturdays . November 10, 2007; February 23, 2008

Monday . February 18, 2008

JUNIOR DAYS . Fridays . February 29, March 28, 2008

Reservations by phone: 1-970-351-2097; Reservations online: www.unco.edu/admissions/tourform.asp

Washington & Lee University – Information Session

Wednesday, October 24 2007; 7:30 p.m.

The Marriott Dallas/Addison Quorum by the Galleria, 14901 Dallas Parkway, Dallas

SafeHaven Bereavement Support for Children, Teens, and Families . This community program, offered through Ann Haven VNA, meets for eight Tuesday evenings, 7-8 p.m., October 23 - December 11, 2007. SafeHaven is a comprehensive program offering emotional support to families with children and teens who have experienced loss through the death of someone significant in their lives. Through peer support and with the assistance of trained, caring volunteers, SafeHaven encourages the healing process and emotional growth of grieving children and their families. SafeHaven is not counseling or therapy; it is an eight-week peer support program for children ages 5 through 18; the special concerns of adult family members are addressed in a separate group during the program. For information, contact Molly Harris or Kirsten Kaae at 940-349-5900.

TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Program . The TCU Texas Youth Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Program recognizes young high school age entrepreneurs for their success in business. The program is open to any currently-enrolled high school student who has started and managed a business. The Neeley Entrepreneurship Center at Texas Christian University, along with sponsorship by Compass Bank, will award six scholarships to the winners. These scholarships may be used to offset tuition at any school of the student's choice; students who choose to attend TCU will have the amount of their scholarship doubled. The top winner will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and five other winners will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship. Information and application available at www.tcuveya.org. Deadline: November 1, 2007.

High School Aerospace Scholars (HAS) . HAS is a unique program that encourages high school **juniors** from across Texas to explore the challenges and opportunities awaiting them in the field of science, technology, engineering, and math. HAS is an interactive, online learning experience in which selected students complete web-based lessons, interact electronically with students from across Texas, and travel to NASA Johnson Space Center for a six-day residential summer experience. This program is sponsored by NASA and funded by the State of Texas, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and Rotary NASA, at no cost to participants. Information and application are available at <http://aerospacescholars.jsc.nasa.gov>. Deadline: November 2, 2007.

Texas A&M University at Galveston Sea Aggie Preview . TAMUG invites high school juniors and seniors to spend Thursday night on the TAMUG campus on Pelican Island and on Friday attend classes, explore their programs and campus life. Experience special activities, Aggie traditions and tours of the Training Ship TEXAS CLIPPER II. Students interested in the Corps of Cadets may ~~spend~~ **spend the Night with the Corps+**. Fall Sea Aggie Preview is November 15-16, 2007 and Spring Preview is February 21-22, 2008; check in between 5-7 p.m. on Thursday and ends by 4 p.m. on Friday. Registration and \$25 fee required. Informational flyer with registration form available in opportunity file in room 100. Deadline: November 2, 2007; February 8, 2008.

Collin County Community College District Open House & Resource Fair- CCCCD is hosting an Open House and Resource Fair on Saturday, November 10, 2007, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco. This come-and-go event is designed to provide prospective students and their parents to visit with college representatives, take a campus tour, attend valuable sessions on admissions, financial aid, and more. Learn about college and community services that are available to aid in your success of earning a degree or gaining workforce training. No registration is required. For more information, contact Wendy Nulph at 972.377.1627 or wnulph@cccd.edu.

University of North Texas NT Preview . The NT Preview programs will be held on Saturday, November 10, 2007, and April 19, 2008, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. During the day you will hear from guest speakers and representatives from the various academic departments. Representatives from Residence Life/Housing, Student Financial Aid and Scholarships, Admissions, Dean of Students and Student Activities Center will also be on hand. A walking campus tour will follow the presentations. While on campus, you will have the opportunity to view a dorm room, browse in the University Store, and ask any questions you may have about North Texas. It will be an exciting day for you and your parents. For more information, call 940-369-7183. There is no cost to attend, but seating is limited. Register online at www.unt.edu/ntpreview.

Next Step Magazine Super Teens Contest - The Next Step Magazine is looking for high school students to be featured in their annual Super Teens issue. Each year they feature high school students who volunteer, get stellar grades, participate in their high schools and communities and are otherwise super teens. Any number of students may apply, but no more than two per school will be selected. Information and application available on the web at <http://www.nextstepmagazine.com/nextstep/super-teens.aspx>, and click on **apply to be a super teen+**. Deadline: November 30, 2007.

Texas Academy of Mathematics and Science (TAMS) . TAMS is a unique residential program for high school-aged Texas students who are high achievers and interested in mathematics and science. While living in an on-campus residence hall, students in this two-year program complete the last two years of high school concurrently with the first two years of college at the University of North Texas (UNT). Applicants must be high school **sophomores** who have demonstrated excellent academic performance and have competitive sophomore SAT scores; they must also complete Algebra I, Algebra II, and geometry by the end of 10th grade. For more information, call TAMS at 1-800-241-TAMS, or visit the website www.tams.unt.edu. Preview Days are held on the following dates: Friday, September 14, 2007; Saturday, October 13, 2007; Saturday, November 17, 2007; Saturday, January 19, 2008. Interviews are by invitation only. Deadline: Applications will be accepted through February 29, 2008.

Ayn Rand Institute Essay Contests . The Ayn Rand Institute is offering over \$57,000 in prize money for their 2006 essay contests. 9th and 10th grade essay contest is on Rand's novelette *Anthem*; 11th and 12th grade essay contest is on Rand's novel *The Fountainhead*. Contest information available online at www.aynrand.org/contests; essay must be submitted online. Deadline: 9th & 10th grade . March 20, 2008; 11th & 12th grade . April 25, 2008.

National Ready Mixed Concrete Association (NRMCA) High School Essay Contest . The Texas Aggregates Concrete and Association (TACA) is sponsoring the annual NRMCA High School Essay Contest. The contest is open to Texas high school students who at ages 16-18 at the beginning of the school. Essays should demonstrate a student's awareness of concrete's role as a building material in homes, commercial buildings, streets and highways, parking lots, etc. For information on the contest, visit www.tx-taca.org; you'll find a section with the contest rules, registration form, and some winning essays from previous years. Deadline: November 16, 2007.